Good bidding is the result of clear partnership agreements and bidding according to your agreements. Trust your partner and listen to her.

**THE BONES OF BIDDING**
**Responding to 1 of a major with a fit**

**Your partnership is on a quest to find a major suit fit.**

1. When partner opens 1 of a major, all you need for a fit is 3 of that suit.

2. With a fit, you can add more points for your distribution

   - responder’s void: add 5 points
   - responder’s singleton: add 3 points
   - responder’s doubleton: add 1 point

3. Then evaluate the category of your strength

   - 0 to 5 points: Sub-minimum
   - 6 to 9 points: Minimum
   - 10 to 12 points: Invitational
   - 13 plus points: Game forcing

4. Do you have **SUB-MINIMUM** strength (0 - 5 points)?

   Guess what? You get to pass!! But you could, perhaps, maybe, maybe get to raise on your next bid!?

   Partner opens 1 spade and you hold
   963   KJ87   1096   743
   Pass. Later you can bid 2 spades if the auction allows.

5. Or, do you have **MINIMUM** strength (6 - 10- points)?

   So, just give a simple raise to the 2 level. Partner says 1 of the major and you say 2 of the major.

   That's easy. So why do some people make it harder? Remember, all that's important is showing that fit!! Ignore the other nice things about your hand.

   Partner opens 1 heart and you hold
   KQJ63   987   109   743
   Respond 2 hearts. You have found a fit. The fit is hearts, so bid 2 hearts. Your spades will be useful to partner for developing tricks, but you only get 1 bid with a minimum hand, and that bid is 2 hearts.
6. Did you get lucky and find a fit with invitational strength (10+ - 12)? Then you get to distinguish between:

- A LIMIT RAISE 10+ to 12 points and FOUR trump, or
- A DELAYED RAISE 10+ to 12 points and THREE trump

**LIMIT RAISE**
10+ to 12 points and four trump
Jump-raise to 3 of partner's suit. Ex: 1heart - pass - 3 hearts

Partner opens 1 spade and you hold
K Q63  K J87  J 96  74
Bid 3 spades, inviting partner with your 4 trump and 11 points.

**DELAYED RAISE**
10+ to 12 points and three trump
DO NOT jump-raise to 3 of partner's suit. Instead, bid a new suit AND THEN JUMP RAISE.

Partner opens 1 spade and you hold
K Q6  K J87  63  Q 974
Bid 2 clubs. If partner next bids 2 diamonds, jump raise to 3 spades.
But what if partner does not bid 2 diamonds?
If he bids 2 spades, bid 3 spades.
If he bids 2NT, bid 3 spades.
If he should happen to bid 2 hearts, jump to 4 hearts. You have a double fit.

7. With 13 points and up you must make sure game is reached.
You either have to respond 2NT (Jacoby 2NT, to be discussed later) if you have 4-club support; or, if you have only 3 trump, start by bidding a new suit and then continue on in an appropriate way, making sure game is reached.

Partner opens 1 spade and you hold
K Q64  K J87  63  A 974
Bid 2 NT. What to do after this will be discussed in another lesson.

Partner opens 1 spade and you hold
K Q6  K J87  K3  A K 743
 Bid 2 clubs. Over partner's next bid, you may bid 4 NT to check Ace's.

8. An immediate jump to 4 of the major shows 5 card trump support and 5 to 9 points.

Partner opens 1 heart and you hold
4  J 9874  93  A 874
Jump immediately to 4 hearts. Partner might make it. But if not, chances are good that your pre-empt disrupted the opponents, and they may have done better if you had given them a chance to communicate.